

## **Testimony on Senate Bill 415**

Before the Energy & Technology Committee  
March 15, 2012

Honorable Peter T. Govert  
Chair, East Haddam Clean Energy Task Force  
Board of Selectmen, East Haddam (2003-2011)

I support the creation of a Property Assessed Clean Energy program in Connecticut. For the past 7 years I have worked to encourage East Haddam residents and businesses to adopt energy conservation and renewable energy improvements. It is critical to have affordable financing options to address the issue of initial costs, especially options that are available at a reasonable interest rate for those heating with oil, propane and wood. Current energy efficiency programs only have low-interest financing for natural gas and electric heat customers.

East Haddam would potentially be interested in offering PACE financing to our residents. We are a small community without dedicated energy staff, and need the process of setting up a PACE program to be as easy as possible. We ask you to direct the Clean Energy Fund to create a statewide program with set guidelines and processes that a town like ours could choose to join.

It is critical that this program be available for businesses and residents, so I ask you to fix last year's language in Public Act 11-80 which treated residential PACE assessments differently than other municipal assessments. Municipal benefit assessments for sewers and other infrastructure have a long history and the legislature set a dangerous precedent by giving municipal tax assessments a lower status than a bank loan.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments,

Hon. Peter T. Govert  
March 14, 2012  
East Haddam, CT